REMARKS

Priority

The Examiner is thanked for the acknowledgment of receipt of the priority claim.

First Drawing Objection

The drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). According to the Office Action the "first shell mold" and "second shell mold" must be shown in the drawings. Applicant respectfully traverses the objection. Grippers 1 and 2 carry the first and second shell molds. The shell molds are work pieces operated on by the claimed device. The two grippers 1 and 2 are constructed the same as stated at paragraph [0028]. They are shown in detailed cross-section at Fig. 9. Accordingly, to make the specification clearer, but without adding any "new matter" paragraph [0017] has been amended to point out that the shell molds are shown in Fig. 9 as follows:

> [0017] Figs. 1 and 2 show a perspective view of a device that serves to align the optical axes of a first shell mold (see ref. no. 27 in Fig. 9) and a second shell mold (also see ref. no. 27 in Fig. 9) relative to each other and to position them at a predetermined distance and then to join them together into a composite by means of sticking a tape along the edge of the two shell molds. Fig. 1 shows the entire device with the device for applying the tape. Fig. 2 shows the same device for reasons of illustrative clarity without the device for applying the tape. The device comprises a gripper 1 for holding the first shell mold, a gripper 2 for holding the second shell mold, a centering station 3 and a device 4 for feeding and applying the tape 5. The two grippers 1 and 2 can be moved along a predetermined axis 6 and can be rotated on the axis 6 individually as well as together. The two grippers 1 and 2 preferably bear on a common guide rail 7. The axis 6 runs parallel to the guide rail 7. A first motor 8 serves to move the first gripper 1 along the guide rail 7, a second motor 9 serves to move the second gripper 2 along the guide rail 7, a third motor 10 serves to rotate the first gripper 1 on the axis 6, a fourth motor 11 serves to rotate the second gripper 2 on the axis 6. The centering station 3 that is arranged stationary in this example serves to align the axis of symmetry or the optical axis of a shell mold so that it coincides with the axis 6. Each of the two shell molds has a marking (a so-called tabo marking) on its edge that characterises the rotational position of the shell mold. The motors 8 to 11 and the device 4 for applying the tape 5 are controlled by a control device.

Accordingly it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Second Drawing Objection

The drawings stand objected to for allegedly failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because element no. 26 shown in Fig. 9 is not referred to in the specification. Applicant respectfully traverses the objection.

The element no. 26 is referred to in the original German language specification in publication WO 2006/003099 A1 (see discussion of Fig. 9 at page 7, line 8) and the reference numeral 26 was simply inadvertently omitted from the translated specification filed in this application. Accordingly applicant has amended paragraph [0028] of the disclosure to include the omitted reference as follows:

> [0028] The two grippers 1 and 2 are constructed the same. The construction of the grippers is described in more detail based on Fig. 9. The gripper contains a support 25 on which the passive side 26 of the shell mold 27 comes to rest, as well as a circular, deformable sealing element 28 arranged within the support 25 in order to seal a cavity 29 formed between the shell mold 27 and the gripper to which vacuum can be applied. The support 25 is located in a plane running perpendicular to an axis of symmetry 30. The surface of the support 25 facing towards the shell mold 27 is toroidal. The sealing element 28 is secured to a plate 31 that is connected by means of a path absorbing element, preferably a bellows 32, to a platform 33 carrying the support 25. The bellows 32 enables a relatively large deflection of the sealing element along the axis of symmetry 30 of the gripper as well as a shifting within the interior bordered by the torus of the support 25, in order to be able to grasp shell molds of different geometry. The axis of symmetry 30 corresponds to the axis of rotation of the gripper and therefore the axis 6 (Fig. 1). When the gripper has not grasped a shell mold, then the bellows 32 assumes its neutral position and the sealing element 28 protrudes typically by several millimetres above the edge of the support 25.

Accordingly withdrawal of this objection is also respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for allowing all pending claims.

Examiner Interview

The Examiner is also thanked for granting the telephone interview of April 2, 2008 where the drawing objections were discussed.

Conclusion

This Amendment After Allowance is presented for the purposes of improving the readability of the application. It is submitted that the proposed amendments do not constitute new matter or would require reexamination. It is submitted that the present Amendment After Allowance places the specification in better form for issuance of the patent. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested. Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,
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